

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /135 W

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O 090715Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2403

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 10613

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN-AFGHAN RELATIONS

REF: KABUL 8360

SUMMARY: KABUL'S MESSAGE 8360 REPORTS ON SUBJECT OF TROUBLE OF AFGHAN TRIBESMEN IN ANNUAL CROSSING OF BORDER INTO PAKISTAN. WHILE I AGREE THIS COULD BE MESSY AND WOULD WANT TO DO WHAT I COULD TO SEE TROUBLE AVOIDED, I DO NOT THINK AT THIS STAGE THAT I SHOULD ATTEMPT TO INTERCEDE ON THIS PROBLEM HERE IN ISLAMABAD, AT LEAST UNTIL I CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE NORMAL DIPLOMATIC PROCESS FOR RESOLVING PROBLEMS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN HAS BEEN TRIED TO ITS UTMOST. END SUMMARY.

1. I FIND ABOVE REFTEL DISTURBING, BOTH FOR THE PROBLEM IT PRESENTS, AND ALSO BECAUSE WAHID ABDULLAH SEEMS TO ASSUME THAT I SHOULD ATTEMPT TO MOVE IN RIGHT AWAY

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TO HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM.

2. I AGREE THAT FROM HIS REPORT IT WOULD APPEAR THE PAKS ARE BEING UNDULY TROUBLESOME ON THE SUBJECT OF THE ANNUAL MIGRATION OF THE KOOCHIES. THIS HAS AT TIMES IN THE PAST BEEN A WORRISOME THING, WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION THE PROBLEM, BUT SOMEHOW THE PROBLEM WORKED ITSELF OUT. I REALIZE THAT THIS TIME COULD BE THE EXCEPTION, AND DO NOT IN ANY WAY WISH TO MINIMIZE THE SERIOUSNESS OF POSSIBLE BORDER CLASHES AT THIS POINT.

3. I DO FEEL STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT I SHOULD NOT QUICKLY CHARGE INTO THIS ONE HERE WHEN I HAVE YET TO HAVE MY FIRST REAL SUBSTANTIVE TALKS WITH EITHER BHUTTO OR HIS MINISTERS. I THINK WAHID ABDULLAH SHOULD UNDER-SO, DESPITE MY GENUINELY WARM FEELINGS FOR HIS COUNTRY, THAT I CAN HARDLY START OFF HERE AS A PRO-CONSUL FOR AFGHANISTAN TRYING TO HANDLE PROBLEMS THAT THEY SAY THEY CANNOT HANDLE WITH THE PAKS THEMSELVES, OR INDEED WHICH THEY MIGHT NOT WANT TO TRY TO HANDLE ON THEIR OWN AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. THEY SAY THE PAK AMBASSADOR IN KABUL IS IMPOSSIBLE, AND HE MOST CERTAINLY IS NOT A FAVORITE OF MINE. BUT THEY DO HAVE THEIR OWN AMBASSADOR HERE (ALSO NOT MUCH REALLY), AND I HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT HE HAS EVEN TRIED. HE IS INDEED IN KABUL NOW ON WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A THREE DAY TRIP (HE PASSED WORD TO ME INDIRECTLY THAT HE WANTED TO SEE ME BEFORE HE RETURNED TO KABUL. I DECIDED TO SEE HIM AND HURRIEDLY MADE MY NECESSARY FIRST CALL ON THE DEAN AND TRIED TO SCHEDULE A CALL UPON HIM IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER. HIS SECRETARY SAID HE WAS GONE FOR THREE DAYS WHEN IN FACT HE WAS HERE FOR A FULL DAY AFTER MY REQUEST FOR AN APPOINTMENT. THERE IS A CHANCE, OF COURSE, THAT HIS SECRETARY GOOFED IT UP.)

4. EVEN SO, IF THIS PROBLEM IS SO URGENT, THE AFGHAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN IS NOW IN HIS OWN CAPITAL, CAN GET BRIEFED ON THE PROBLEM, AND COULD GET BACK IF NECESSARY FOR DISCUSSIONS HERE IN A FEW HOURS. IF THEY TRY ALL THIS, AS WELL AS WITH THE PAK DCM IN KABUL
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AS YOU REPORTED, AND IT APPEARS THAT NOTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED THEN I WILL DO WHAT I CAN. BUT I WOULD WANT EVIDENCE EVEN SO THAT I WOULD BE IN A SUPPORTING ROLE AND NOT THE FRONT RUNNER.

5. I THINK IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE FUTURE TO REPORT MY FEELINGS RATHER FULLY TO ABDULLAH. I ALSO HAVE DOUBTS ABOUT THE TWO MILLION FIGURE, AND WHETHER

THEY COULD IN FACT HAVE REALLY ISSUED THAT MANY PASSPORTS,
BUT THIS IS PROBABLY NOT VERY GERMANE TO THE PROBLEM.

6. I REPEAT I WILL DO WHAT I CAN HERE ON THIS PROBLEM
IF IT BECOMES SERIOUS, AND IF I CAN BE ASSURED THAT
SERIOUS EFFORTS HAVE FIRST BEEN MADE ON A BILATERAL
BASIS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES INVOLVED.BYROADE

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Message Attributes

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